

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 898  
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor Corporal Neill Sevelius on the occasion of his receiving the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" for his heroic service with the United States Marine Corps in Iraq.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Armed Forces, including the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Neill Sevelius, United States Marine Corps, has served his country with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for his heroism in aiding a wounded comrade in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, a combat videographer with Regimental Combat Team 2, Corporal Sevelius was attached to a U.S. Marine infantry company during Operation Steel Curtain, the Marine and Iraqi Army led, two-week offensive in western Al Anbar Province, whose mission was to disrupt insurgent activity in several towns near the Syrian border; and

WHEREAS, during the second day of operations, Corporal Sevelius found himself with a squad of Second Platoon Marines on the roof of a house when they began receiving sniper fire; the platoon commander ordered his squad off the roof, and the rooftop was quickly cleared of Marines, except one; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Neill Sevelius described the situation, "It was almost like slow motion. I thought, 'What is he doing? He needs to get off the roof.' Then he crumpled." The

moment the Marine dropped, an entire squad fired their weapons to provide suppressive fire as Corporal Sevelius leapt onto the roof where the wounded man lay; bravely, he assisted his fellow Marine down from the roof to safety; and

WHEREAS, military officials called Corporal Sevelius's actions, "heroic and life-saving" and awarded him the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" for aiding a wounded Marine under fire; and

WHEREAS, Neill Sevelius's pursuit of excellence in the military and his great love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, are exemplified in his heroic actions; Marines such as Corporal Sevelius have helped to ensure the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals throughout our history; and

WHEREAS, a 2003 graduate of Maryville High School, Neill Sevelius is currently stationed in Kuwait and is scheduled to return soon to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Neill Sevelius performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism, and his service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Corporal Neill Sevelius on the occasion of his receiving the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" for his heroic service with the United States Marine Corps in Iraq and express our gratitude for his commitment to the cause of freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.